



**SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER**  
**JULY 06-07, 2024**  
**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)**  
**Reverend Emmanuel Darfour Appah, Administrator**

**Saint Mary Catholic Church**

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724  
Coeburn, VA 24230

**Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM**

**Reconciliation Saturday 4:30 PM**

**Weekday Mass Tuesday 5 PM Mass**

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church**

890 W Main St., PO Box 730  
Lebanon, VA 24266-0730

**Sunday Mass 11:00 AM**

**Reconciliation Sunday 10:30 AM**

**Weekday Mass Wednesday 6 PM Mass**

**Saint Therese Catholic Church**

16661 Wise St., PO Box 56  
St. Paul, VA 24283

**Sunday Mass 8:30 AM**

**Reconciliation Sunday 8:00 AM**

**CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Telephone Office: 1-276-889-1690**

**Office e-mail: [office@spiritofthemountain.org](mailto:office@spiritofthemountain.org)**

**Website: <https://spiritofthemountain.org/>**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spirit-of-the-Mountain-Cluster-107130504274408>**

**EMERGENCY: NEED A PRIEST? CALL 1-804-631-9027**

or **[eappah@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eappah@richmonddiocese.org)**

**Readings for 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (July 6-7, 2024)**

Ezekial 2:2-5; Psalm 123:1-2, 3-4; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

**Readings for 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (July 13-14, 2024)**

Amos 7:12-15; Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** “My grace is sufficient for you.” Consider a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life. God’s grace is all you need. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generous support in last week’s Peter’s Pence Collection! As a cluster, we collected \$69 (see under each parish for parish amount). Our contributions will join those from our brothers and sisters worldwide to help Pope Francis in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give.

**CLUSTER BULLETIN:** While Cathy is having surgery and recovering, Janice Halsey will be doing the church bulletin. Please use the following email to send information: [emmadalane69@outlook.com](mailto:emmadalane69@outlook.com). Phone number is 276-596-0785 (been having issues with cell), if necessary, you may use direct line at work 276-883-5187.

**WELCOME FATHER EMMANUEL DARFOUR APPAH!** We are happy to have Father Emmanuel Dafour Appah with us as our new Cluster Parochial Vicar! To welcome him with our southern hospitality, we will be having cake after mass. All who can are welcome to stay!

**The Spirit of the Mountain Cluster and our Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064 and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-877-887-9603, or email [vac@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org) or visit the Diocese's Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>**

### **SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**June 29 Offertory** **\$ 808.00** **Attendance: 26**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Alton Lawson, Jr., Sister Stacey Hanrahan, Lillie Peters, Billy Hunsaker, Charles Bennett, and Bobby Kyle.  
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before weekend masses.**  
**July Birthdays:** Rachael Bates (6), Alton Lawson, Jr. (22), Gregory Perry (24), Patty Nauss (27)

### **SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**June 30 Offertory** **\$240.00** **Attendance 7**  
**Donations** **\$204.00**  
**Peter's Pence** **\$ 24.00**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Tim Long, Jackie White, Helen Moretz, James F. White, Brayn Whited, JoAnn Detta, and Rodney Altizer.  
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before weekend masses.**  
**July Birthdays:** Angel David Cardenas (14), Bill White (20), Marty Huber (31)

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**June 30 Offertory** **\$900.00** **Attendance: 33**  
**June 30 Votive Candle Offerings** **\$ 5.00**  
**Donation** **\$200.00**  
**Peter's Pence** **\$ 45.00**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Valerie Christian, James White, Bob Dorton, JoAnn Detta, Jackie White, and Sherry Hubbard.

**July Birthdays:** Francisco Hernandez (12), Feliza Ruby Dorton/Maggie Lindvall (14), Ximena Castro (18), Shyann Hubbard (30)

**Good Shepherd Lector Schedule:**

July 7/14 – Dave Britten

July 21/28 – Janice Halsey

August 4/11 – Frank Taylor

Looking to meet 400+ faithful single Catholics from all over the USA and beyond? Join us August 16th-18th, 2024 at the 23rd National Conference for Single Catholics in Las Vegas, Nevada (or participate virtually and engage with others via online socials and small group discussions.) This is your chance to connect with like-minded singles of all ages! The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, fellowship and more. (If attending in-person, use the promo code PARISH24 for a discount.) Visit [NationalCatholicSingles.com](http://NationalCatholicSingles.com) for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 704-665-0455.)

**MARRIED COUPLES.** Give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy! We love to have priests on our experiences as well, so invite your favorite priest and give their vocation some new vitality!

For more information or to register, go to [WWME.org](http://WWME.org), click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location. Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or [mstang1987@aol.com](mailto:mstang1987@aol.com) with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

September 27-29, 2024 - Herndon, VA (only 15 slots left!)

October 11-13, 2024 - College Park, MD

November 15-17, 2024 - Virginia Beach, VA

**TRUE PROPHET**  
**Melanie Coddington**

In today's first reading, Ezekiel is headed for trouble. Charged with the task of proclaiming God's word to a people "hard of face and obstinate of heart," he has his work cut out for him. How similar these rebellious Israelites sound to the naysayers of Jesus' hometown, who use his humble origins in the neighborhood as an excuse to ignore his testimony. Of course, snipers and grippers will have their say, even today.

Ezekiel speaks as one overpowered by the Spirit. This is the prophet to whom God will say, "Eat what is before you; eat this scroll and go, speak to the house of Israel" (Ez 3:1). Obedient Ezekiel will accept and eat the

papyrus scroll filled with words of woe, ensuring that his message will be worthy of the preamble, Thus says the Lord. He will do what he must, knowing that his moral authority comes from the Lord God, who has called and equipped him. The final phrase of today's reading, "they shall know that a prophet has been among them," confirms this connection. Fed by the Spirit, the true prophet does the difficult deed despite active opposition, directly expressing God's will for the people in the present.

Ezekiel's call comes ten years before the fall of Jerusalem (and the large-scale exile of Judah's finest). King Nebuchadnezzar has deported Ezekiel the priest (along with other troublemakers) to Babylon. There the Lord taps him to speak a word most unwelcome to his fellow early-exiles. As he warns of the inevitable consequences of Israel's rebellion against the Lord, he will find denial thick on the ground. Unable to fathom the possibility of Jerusalem's destruction, his audience will refuse to accept any share of responsibility for it.

Following a common pattern, the biblical text of Psalm 123 begins in the singular voice of the psalmist, then shifts to the plural—the voice of the community. In the cultural world of the Bible, a universal assumption orders the lives of people: The life, aspirations, hopes and dreams of the group (tribe, clan, family) overshadow those of the individual. Psalm 123's technique of a single voice calling forth the response of the entire community reflects this cultural mindset and suggests the "Leader-ALL" forth-and-back-ness of ritual, a liturgical formula to gather all those present into common action.

All of that said, as a reaction to the first reading, Psalm 123 serves well as the lament of the prophet, who faces resistance to his message and rejection of his person. We can imagine the apostle Paul praying it, as he endures "insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints," in the course of his mission to the Gentiles.

In the Gospel of St. Mark, this Sunday's episode follows immediately after the passage we heard last week. The great faith demonstrated by the woman who touched Jesus' clothes, and by Jairus, the synagogue official, stands in sharp contrast to the "lack of faith" that Jesus encounters "in his native place." His teaching in the local synagogue rings with unexpected authority, inspiring first astonishment, then suspicion. Jesus' powerful words and mighty deeds bring his listeners to the brink of bestowing extra honor on him, thereby threatening the stable cultural arrangement of honor already distributed and passed down within families. Rather than declare him a hometown hero, the crowd sets out to put him firmly in his place, citing his ordinary occupation (carpenter) and his well-known family connections. We can imagine Jesus shaking his head, as he speaks the uncomfortable truth: "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."